

Application No.: 09/739,959

Docket No.: P8800.1300/P005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions or listings of claims for this application:

Listing of Claims:

1-45 (Canceled).

46. (New) A method of delivering a postal mailpiece to a recipient postal address which is unique to an addressee, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting a proxy address on the postal mailpiece wherein said proxy address is defined by a set of presentation protocols that distinguish said proxy address from other addresses, and said entire proxy address does not change upon the change of the recipient postal address;

using the detected proxy address to obtain through a database query applying said addressing protocols, the recipient postal address from a database of recipient postal addresses and associated recipient proxy addresses, the addresses within the database being defined by postal recipients associated with the addresses; and

affixing the obtained recipient postal address to the postal mailpiece so that the mailpiece can be delivered to a physical address corresponding to the obtained recipient postal address.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said addressing protocols comprise mnemonics representing a category in which a related physical address belongs.

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48. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said step of detecting the proxy address comprises detecting a symbol on the postal mailpiece that corresponds to said predefined proxy addressing protocol.

49. (New) A method of creating and maintaining proxy addresses for use with a postal mailpiece, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting a proxy address wherein said proxy address is defined by a set of addressing values for a physical address, wherein said entire proxy address does not change upon the change of said physical address;

inputting a recipient postal address associated with the input proxy address;
and

storing the proxy address and associated recipient postal address in a list of proxy addresses and associated recipient postal addresses.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the list is stored in a computer readable storage medium.

51. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of ensuring that the input proxy address does not match a proxy address contained in the list.

52. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of ensuring that the input proxy address complies with an addressing protocol said protocol distinguishing said proxy address from other addresses.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the addressing protocol comprises a predefined symbol used to identify the input proxy address as a valid proxy address.

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54. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the symbol comprises at least a # character.

55. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the symbol comprises at least a @ character.

56. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the symbol comprises at least a % character.

57. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the addressing protocol comprises a predefined addressing presentation format used to identify the input proxy address as a valid proxy address.

58. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a new proxy address associated with a first proxy address and a first recipient postal address contained in the list; and

replacing the first proxy address with the new proxy address in the list without modifying the first recipient postal address.

59. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a recipient postal address associated with a first proxy address and a first recipient postal address contained in the list; and

replacing the first recipient postal address with the new recipient postal address in the list without modifying the first proxy address.

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60. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the input proxy address is input from a recipient associated with the recipient postal address.

61. (New) A method of identifying a recipient postal address from a postal mailpiece comprising a proxy address that does not change upon the change of the recipient postal address, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting the proxy address on the postal mailpiece; and

using the detected proxy address to obtain a recipient postal address from a list of recipient postal addresses and associated recipient proxy addresses, wherein proxy addresses contained within the list are defined by postal recipients associated with the proxy addresses.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein said step of detecting the proxy address comprises detecting an identifier on the postal mailpiece that corresponds to a predefined proxy addressing protocol.

63. (New) A method of managing delivery of a mailpiece comprising the steps of:

inputting a proxy address;

inputting a mail handling instruction associated with this input proxy address, the instruction defining a manner in which mailpieces are to be delivered to a physical address associated with the input proxy address; and

storing the proxy address and associated mail handling instruction in a list of proxy addresses and mail handling instructions wherein a change in location of the physical address will not cause a change in the entire proxy address.

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64. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising the steps of:

detecting a proxy address on the postal mailpiece;

using the detected proxy address to obtain at least one associated mail handling instruction from the list; and

delivering the mailpiece in accordance with the obtained mail handling instruction.

65. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the input mail handling instruction comprises mail forwarding instructions.

66. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the input mail handling instruction comprises temporary mail holding instructions.

67. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the input mail handling instruction comprises mail routing instructions.

68. (New) A method of providing value-added services for a mailpiece comprising the steps of:

detecting the proxy address on the postal mailpiece;

using the detected proxy address to obtain a recipient value-added service from a list of recipient value-added services and associated recipient proxy addresses; and

tracking a delivery of the mailpiece to provide the obtained value-added service.

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69. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the obtained recipient value-added service comprises a pre-paid postage service.

70. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the wherein the obtained recipient value-added service comprises a mail flow analyzing service.

71. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the obtained recipient value-added service comprises a proxy address timeout service.

72. (New) A system for delivering a postal mailpiece comprising:

a computer readable storage medium, said storage medium comprising a database of proxy addresses and associated recipient postal addresses, the addresses within the database being defined by postal recipients associated with the addresses and the associated proxy addresses each having the characteristic of not changing in their entirety upon the change of each associated recipient postal address; and

a first database interface computer coupled to said storage medium by a communication medium, said first database interface computer inputting a proxy address obtained from the postal mailpiece, said first database interface computer accessing said database with said input proxy address to obtain an associated recipient postal address, wherein the postal mailpiece is subsequently delivered to a physical address corresponding to said obtained recipient postal address.

73. (New) The system of claim 72, wherein said first database interface computer affixes said obtained recipient postal address on the postal mailpiece.

74. (New) The system of claim 72, wherein said communication medium is a computer network.

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75. (New) The system of claim 72, wherein said communication medium is the Internet.

76. (New) The system of claim 72, further comprising a second database interface computer coupled to said computer readable storage medium by a second communication medium, said second database interface computer providing a means for recipients to modify addresses within said database.

77. (New) The system of claim 76, wherein said second database interface computer allows a recipient associated with a first proxy address and a first recipient postal address to modify the first recipient postal address without modifying the first proxy address.

78. (New) The system of claim 76, wherein said second database interface computer allows a recipient associated with a first proxy address and a first recipient postal address to modify the first proxy address without modifying the first recipient postal address.

79. (New) The system of claim 76, further comprising a third database interface computer coupled to said computer readable storage medium by a third communication medium, said third database interface computer providing a means for recipients to register with said system and become authorized to modify addresses within said database.

80. (New) A system of identifying a recipient postal address from a postal mailpiece comprising a proxy address that does not change in its entirety upon the change the recipient postal address, said system comprising:

means for detecting the proxy address on the postal mailpiece; and

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means for using the detected proxy address to obtain a recipient postal address from a list of recipient postal addresses and associated recipient proxy addresses, wherein proxy addresses contained within the list are defined by postal recipients associated with the proxy addresses.

81. (New) The system of claim 80, wherein said detecting means comprises means for detecting an identifier on the postal mailpiece that corresponds to a predefined proxy addressing protocol.

82. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium having stored therein indicia of a plurality of machine-executable control program steps, the control program comprising the steps of:

detecting a proxy address on a postal mailpiece;

using the detected proxy address to obtain a recipient postal address from a list of recipient postal addresses and associated recipient proxy addresses; and

delivering the mailpiece to a physical address corresponding to the obtained recipient postal address, wherein proxy addresses contained within the list are defined by postal recipients associated with the proxy addresses, and wherein an associated proxy address has a characteristic of not changing upon the change of an associated recipient postal address.

83. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 82, wherein the control program further comprises the step of modifying the list of recipient postal and proxy addresses by recipients authorized to modify the list.

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84. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 82, wherein said step of detecting the proxy address comprises detecting an identifier on the postal mailpiece that corresponds to a predefined proxy addressing protocol.

85. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium having stored therein indicia of a plurality of machine-executable control program steps, the control program comprising the steps of:

inputting a proxy address;

inputting a recipient postal address associated with the input proxy address;
and

storing the proxy address and associated recipient postal address in a list of proxy addresses and associated recipient postal addresses, wherein each of said proxy addresses does not change upon the change of the respective associated recipient postal address.

86. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 85, wherein the list is stored in a computer readable storage medium.

87. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 85, wherein the program further comprises the step of ensuring that the input proxy address does not match a proxy address contained in the list.

88. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 85, wherein the program further comprises the step of ensuring that the input proxy address complies with an addressing protocol.

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89. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium having stored therein indicia of a plurality of machine-executable control program steps, the control program comprises:

detecting the proxy address on the postal mailpiece; and

using the detected proxy address to obtain a recipient postal address from a list of recipient postal addresses and associated recipient proxy addresses,

wherein proxy addresses contained within the list are defined by postal recipients associated with the proxy addresses and the proxy addresses have the characteristic of not changing upon a change of an associated recipient postal address.

90. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 89, wherein said step of detecting the proxy address comprises detecting an identifier on the postal mailpiece that corresponds to a predefined proxy addressing protocol.

91. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 89, wherein said step of detecting the proxy address comprises detecting a predetermined presentation format that corresponds to a predefined proxy addressing protocol.